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ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA • ANGEL MEDINA • SCOTT HANNA
The Sensational
SPIDER-MAN
DIRECT EDITION
RATED A
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SUSAN AND REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR:
SPIDER-MAN...?
THIS BOY NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION!
NOW!!!
WE ALL DO, ACTUALLY...
THAT BOY, IS HE...?
I TRIED TO STOP THEM, SIR.
THE MAN IS SPIDER-MAN. THE WOMAN IS THE BLACK CAT. THE ROBOT IS H.E.R.B.I.E.
THE DYING CHILD IS BILLY CONNORS.
IT'S BEEN A HELL OF A NIGHT...

FEAR AGENT PART THREE: HUNTER'S MOON

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NEVER MIND.
LET'S JUST GET HIM INTO THE MED LAB.
PARDON MY ARM, LADIES.
THE BIO-BATH, SPIDER-MAN. CLOTHES AND ALL.
SUSAN?
IT'S POWERING UP, REED.
UHM, I KNOW YOU'RE A GENIUS AND I'M JUST A REFORMED SUPER-VILLAIN, DR. RICHARDS--
--BUT WON'T HE DROWN IN THERE?

THAT'S SUPER-OXYGENATED, SUPER-ENRICHED, SYNTHETICALLY-DISTILLED AMNIOTIC FLUID, MS. HARDY.
THE BOY'S IN AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB THAT'S HEALING HIM.
WHERE'D YOU GET IT, DOC? TARGET?
I'LL ASSUME THAT YOU'RE QUIPPING BECAUSE YOU'RE ANXIOUS, SPIDER-MAN.
THE BOY'S VITALS ARE STABILIZING, BY THE WAY. (IN CASE THAT WAS EVER IN DOUBT.) AND I'M ALSO PICKING UP TRACES OF...
...GOOD LORD.
THIS IS CURT CONNORS'S SON, ISN'T IT? THAT'S HIS BIO-RESTORATIVE SERUM IN THE BOY'S BLOOD-STREAM?
AFFIRMATIVE.
AREN'T THERE FOUR OF YOU, USUALLY?
BEN AND JOHNNY ARE AT THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT...
"...DEALING WITH ONE OF THE MOLE MAN'S PETS."

I WONDER IF THEY'RE LINKED.
IF WHAT ARE?
True confession: SOMETIMES, it's NICE not being the smartest guy in the room.
I'M ASSUMING THAT THE LIZARD HAS... RESURFACED?
HE HAS. YEP.
COUPLED WITH THE "SUDDEN" APPEARANCE OF THE MOLE MAN'S MONSTER...
CLASS: 6
C-6
ON TOP OF THE SEEMINGLY RANDOM OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE DISRUPTING THE CITY....
AND WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME. WHAT I'M FEELING...
WHAT, MS. HARDY?
RESTLESSNESS, DR. RICHARDS, AND... APPETITE. FEAR, RAGE, BLOODLUST...
LIKE CLAWS RIPPING AT MY INSIDES...
INTERESTING.
MS. HARDY, WHILE THE BOY HEALS, I'D LIKE TO RUN SOME TESTS ON YOU, AS WELL AS ON SPIDER-MAN.
ME? MORE TESTS?
I'M AFRAID SO...

"...THERE'S AN EPIDEMIC IN NEW YORK, AND I THINK YOU AND THE BLACK CAT--
"--AND OTHERS LIKE YOU--
"--MAY BE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE."
AVENGERS TOWER.
I'M JUST CHECKING THE TEA, DEAR. IS THAT SWEET JOHN JAMESON HERE YET?
ON HIS WAY, MAY. IN THE ELEVATOR.
BUT NOT STAYING LONG.
DING!
THANKS FOR COMING BY WITH MY SCARF, JOHN, BUT NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME.
GRRRRRRRR...
...RRRARRRRGGHH!!!
JOHN JAMESON.
THE MAN-WOLF.
LICKING ITS CHOPS.

STAY--STAY IN THE KITCHEN, MAY!
DON'T-- DON'T COME OUT HERE!
?
RRRRRRR...
JOHN... JOHN, ARE YOU IN THERE?
P-PLEASE, JOHN...
BHHNNNNUFFFF!
CRACKK!
PETER--
--CALL PETER!
RRRAARRGGH!
OH, GOD--!
BHHNNNUFFF!

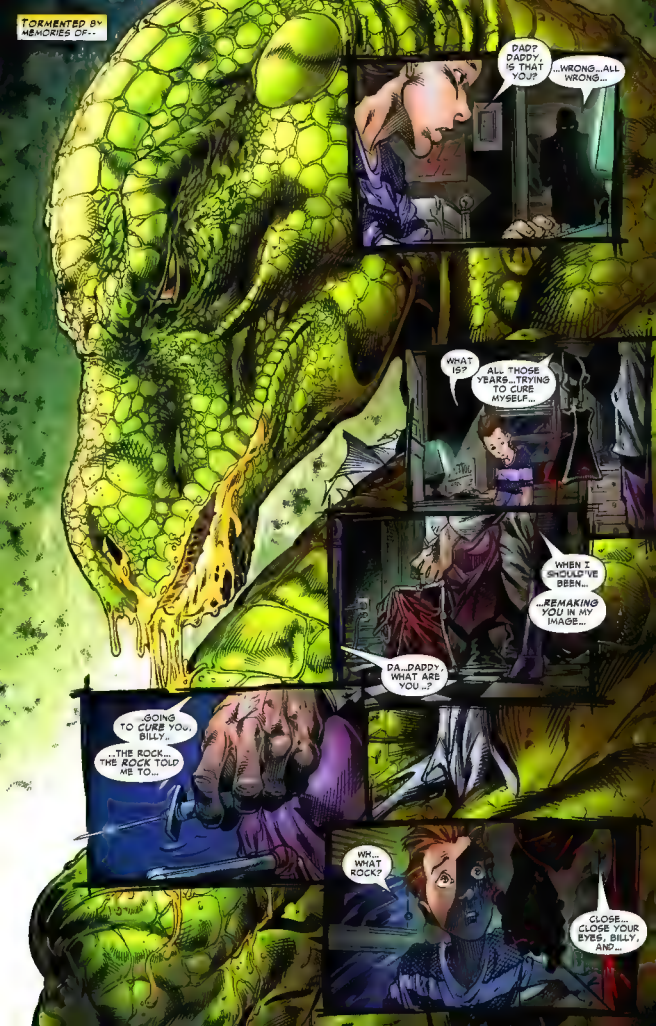
OH, GOD, OH, GOD, OH, GOD, OH, GOD--
DON'T DO THIS, JOHN, PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T DO--
TEA'S READY.
URRRH?
ONE LUMP OR TWO?
CRASHH!
AARRRGHHH!
MAY--
--OH, GOD--
--MAY--
"SPIDER-MAN...?"
KITCHEN, DEAR.

...IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
YOU SPRANG TO ATTENTION LIKE--
--SOMETHING'S WRONG BACK HOME.
I-I FEEL IT.
YOU CAN TELL FROM HERE? IS THIS ONE OF YOUR NEW POWERS?
--
KEEP WORKING ON BILLY AND THE CAT, DR. RICHARDS--
HEY.
"--I GOTTA HUSTLE AND FLOW."
MHHHRRRRRRRRR...
DEFENSE SYSTEMS. THERE MUST BE DEFENSE SYSTEMS WE CAN--
--ALREADY ACTIVATED THEM, MY DEAR.
YOU DID?
BEFORE I GAVE JOHN JAMESON HIS TEA.
--
I DON'T JUST WANDER THESE HALLS DELIVERING SAGE ADVICE, MY DEAR.
HONESTLY, I'M SURPRISED MR. STARK'S ROBOTS HAVEN'T ALREADY--

SMASH
RARRGH!?
THESE DARTS?
THEY MEAN YOU'RE SECRTED.

FOOMP
FOOMP
HURRRH?
THREE
TWO
THAT HANDSOME TONY STARK IS SUCH A CAUTION.
THUDD!
"CAUTION," RIGHT.
WE ARE SO MOVING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MRS. PARKER. MRS. WATSON-PARKER YOUR VISITOR IS OFFICIALLY...

...WELL, LOOK AT HIM.
MAY, DON'T- DON'T--
OH, I'VE SEEN WORSE IN MY TIME. BELIEVE YOU ME.
HI, LADIES.
...SOMEONE WANNA TELL ME WHERE THE NAKED GUY CAME FROM?
THE BOWELS OF HELL.
THE NEW YORK SEWERS.
FLOODING FROM THE INCESSANT RAIN
THE LIZARD
RECOVERING FROM HIS SKIRMISH WITH THE BLACK CAT.

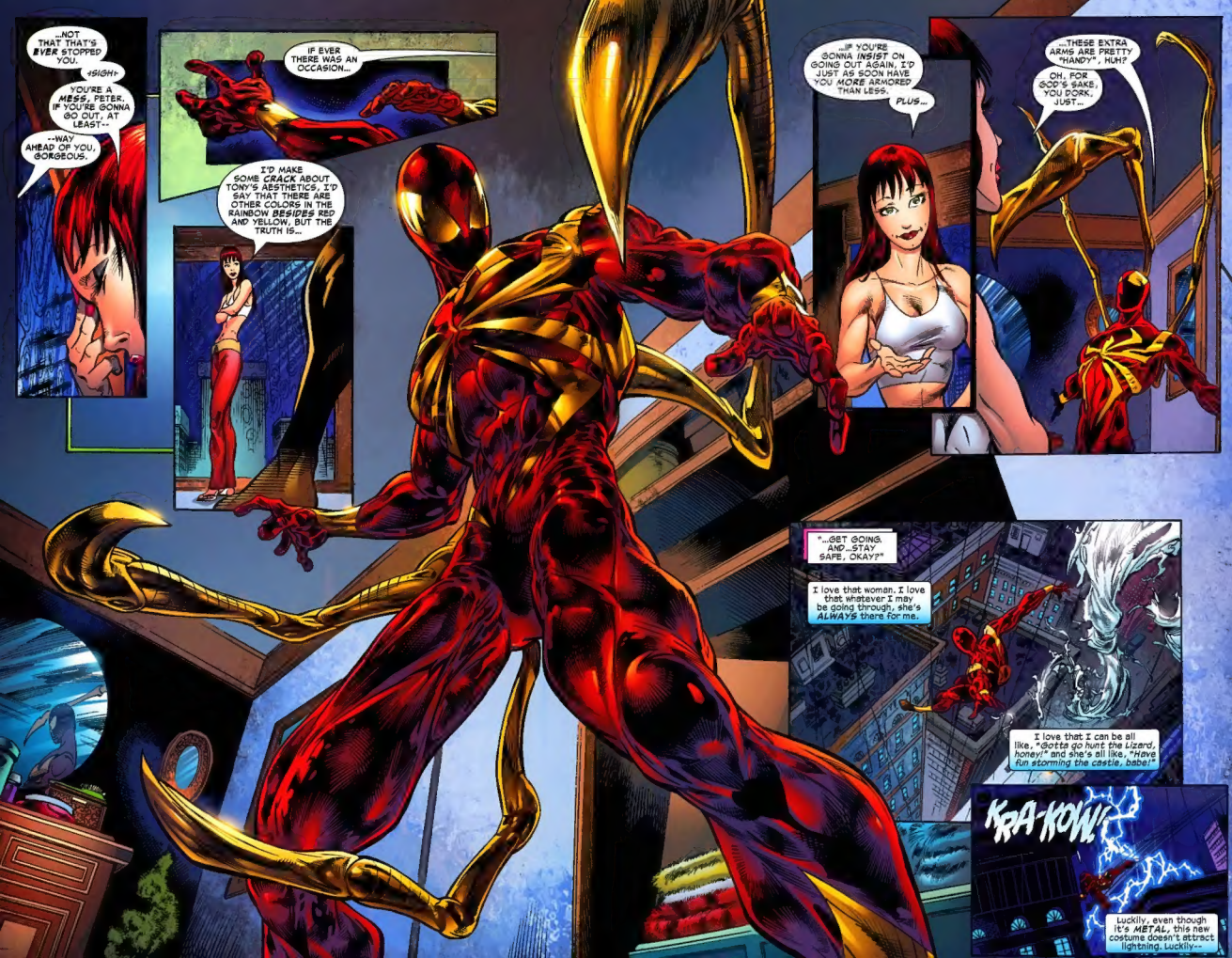

TORMENTED BY MEMORIES OF--
DAD? DADDY, IS THAT YOU?
...WRONG...ALL WRONG...
WHAT IS?
ALL THOSE YEARS...TRYING TO CURE MYSELF...
WHEN I SHOULD'VE BEEN...
...REMAKING YOU IN MY IMAGE...
DA...DADDY, WHAT ARE YOU...?
...GOING TO CURE YOU, BILLY...
...THE ROCK... THE ROCK TOLD ME TO...
WH... WHAT ROCK?
CLOSE... CLOSE YOUR EYES, BILLY, AND...

RRHARRRRR!
THE ROAR--
--ECHOING THROUGH THE CATACOMBS--
--REACHING THE EARS OF
VERMIN.
FEASTING ON OFFICER TOM RUSSELL
NOT LIKING WHAT HE'S TASTING.
WONDERING IF THERE MIGHT NOT BE SOMETHING BETTER--

--ELSEWHERE
SLOGGING HIS WAY THROUGH THE MUCK.
LIKE VERMIN--
--MOVING TOWARDS THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.
TWO MONSTERS ON THE PROWL.

KRA-KOW!
This is pathetic. Whatever's wrong with me, I should be out there with Peter--
--not WAITING for that creepy Dr. Richards to keep [illegible] and protecting me.
KNOCK KNOCK
FELICIA? MS. HARDY?
IF YOU'RE READY...
Sorry, Mrs. Invisible. But you and your [illegible] should know...
...CATS don't like being confined.
"...I'M NOT KIDDING, MJ, FELICIA WOULD'VE KILLED CURT."

THE WAY HE ALMOST KILLED YOU? THE WAY JOHN JAMESON TRIED TO KILL US?
LOOK AT YOUR POOR SHOULDER...
IT'S OKAY.
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT...
THE CITY? THE RIOTING? ALL THE VIOLENCE?
STAR
THAT, TOO.
BUT ALSO... ME. AFTER FELICIA ALMOST KILLED THE DOC, I WANTED TO KILL HER. LIKE, LITERALLY.
NO, I UNDERSTAND...
EARLIER TONIGHT, AFTER WE TALKED, I GOT... FURIOUS, PETER. AND WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING I'D DONE IT, I SUDDENLY HAD A KNIFE IN MY HANDS AND I WAS THINKING...
WHAT, MJ?
THEY WEREN'T NICE THOUGHTS, I CAN TELL YOU THAT MUCH... AND I'VE NEVER SEEN MAY FIGHT THE WAY SHE DID AGAINST JOHN.
I DON'T KNOW, TIGER, IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ALL OF US...
AND POOR DOC CONNORS IS GETTING THE WORST OF IT FOR WHATEVER REASON...
I MEAN, HE TURNED HIS SON INTO A MONSTER, MJ. WHAT WOULD MAKE A MAN DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW...
AND NOW, IF HE THINKS BILLY'S BEEN HURT OR KILLED...
I GOTTA FIND HIM, MJ. I GOTTA FIND HIM AND FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL'S TAKING US OVER...
PETER, YOU'RE HURT...


...NOT THAT THAT'S EVER STOPPED YOU.
<SIGH>
YOU'RE A MESS, PETER. IF YOU'RE GONNA GO OUT, AT LEAST--
--WAY AHEAD OF YOU, GORGEOUS.
IF EVER THERE WAS AN OCCASION...
I'D MAKE SOME CRACK ABOUT TONY'S AESTHETICS. I'D SAY THAT THERE ARE OTHER COLORS IN THE RAINBOW BESIDES RED AND YELLOW. BUT THE TRUTH IS...
...IF YOU'RE GONNA INSIST ON GOING OUT AGAIN, I'D JUST AS SOON HAVE YOU MORE ARMORED THAN LESS.
PLUS...
...THESE EXTRA ARMS ARE PRETTY "HANDY", HUH?
OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE, YOU DORK, JUST...
"...GET GOING. AND...STAY SAFE, OKAY?"
I love that woman. I love that whatever I may be going through, she's ALWAYS there for me.
I love that I can be all like, "Gotta go hunt the Lizard, honey!" and she's all like, "Have fun storming the castle, babe!"
KRA-KOW!
Luckily, even though it's METAL, this new costume doesn't attract lightning. Luckily--

--I don't have far to go.
Normally, I'd track the doc using my spidey-sense, but with that outta whack...I need some EXTRASENSORY help.
The last time I talked to the X-MEN'S psychics, they told me my Aunt May was dead, so...thanks, but no thanks.
BESIDES, I heard through the grapevine that SHE'D set up shop again...
SPIDER-MAN... RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
...and YEP, Madame Web sure has.
NEXT: VERMIN VERSUS THE LIZARD VERSUS SPIDEY!!

KRYPTONIA - DCP